were also requested on 15.1.79 not to take penal action against unqualified medical practitioners and keep the enforcement of penal provisions of the IMC Act, 1956 in abeyance. Subsequently the position was reviewed and it was felt that despite the lapse of considerable period of time, no tangible action had been initiated by most of the State Govts, as per the approach recommended by the Govt, of India. Also no restrictions had been imposed by some of the State Govts, to prevent the entry of fresh unqualified persons into the rank of unqualified medical practitioners. Therefore, vide letter dated 1.6.82 addressed to State/UTs it was decided that there is no longer any justification in keeping the penal provisions of the IMC Act in abeyance. Accordingly, the instructions issued by this Ministry in January, 1979 were withdrawn. Subsequently, consequent upon the judgement pronounced by the High Court of Rajhasthan and Punjab & Haryana in connection with the provisions relating to registration of unqualified medical practitioners under the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 the whole matter is sub-judicc in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

nadequate Infrastructural Facilities in Safdarjung Hospital

2672. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Safdarjung Hospital which is a prime hospital in New Delhi has become too small to cater to the large number of people visiting the hospital due to lack of adequate infrastructural facilities; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to expand and modernise the available facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Large number of people visit Safdarjung Hospital every day. About 5000 patients attend OPDs and another 500-1000 attend the Casuality and Emergency Services. There are also 1500-2000 indoor patcints in the various wards of the hospital. Each patient is accompained by 2-3 relatives/ attendants. This puts a heavy pressure on the infrastructural facilities.

(b) The steps taken to expand and modernise the available facilities include:—

(i) The proposal for strengthening the existing Emergency & Casuality Services at an estimated cost of Rs. 285.50 lakhs has been approved by the Expenditure Finance Committee.

(ii) Rs. 115.86 lakhs were sanctioned for the purchases of equipment and Rs. 94.56 lakhs were sanctioned for construction/civil works in 1996-97.

(iii) 130 posts of various categories have been sanctioned for the Burns Ward.

(iv) Administrative Approval and Expenditure sanction has been issued for the construction of OPD Phase-III (Right & Left Wing) at an estimated cost of Rs. 16.44 crores during 9th Five Year Plan.

(v) Proposal for setting up an Arthosocopy and Sports Injury Clinic has been approved by the Standing Finance Committee, the cost of which is estimated at Rs. 230.00 lakhs.

(vi) The proposals for upgradation of the Departments of Burns and Plastic Surgery, Blood Bank, Obst. & Gynaecology, Emergency and Casuality Clinic Pathology during the 9th Five Year Plan have been posed to the Planning Commission.

Depriving a Senior Ncuro-Surgcon of Professorship in AIIMS

2673. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any senior ncuro-surgeon has been deprived of professorship in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi inspite of his fulfilling the required criteria;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to correct this irregularity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) to (c) The Institute have reported that the Selection Committee on 18th March, 1998 did not recommend any candidate as suitable for the post of Professor of Neuro-Surgery. The recommendations of the Selection Committee were placed before the Appointing Authority *i.e.* Governing Body.

Promotion of Hindi Staff in Subordinate Offices

2674. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether no common cadre of promotional avenues are available for the Hindi staff working in its subordinate offices;

(b) whether consequant upon the decision taken in the 21st meeting of Central Hindi Committee held on 2nd December, 1987 under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister, vide item No. 55, directions were received by Ministry of Health from Ministry of Home vide OM No. 17/ 5/88-OL (S) dated 6th April, 1988;

(c) if so, the action taken thereon;

(d) if not, the reasons therefore; and

(e) the steps taken in this context for creation/upgradation of available avenues of promotions for Hindi staff working at CRI Kasauli?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHIL-MALAI): (a) to (e) At present there is no common cadre for Hindi Staff working in the subordinate offices under this Ministry. As per instructions received from Ministry of Home Affairs (Deptt. of Official Language) dated 6-4-88 action has already been initiated to constitute a common cadre of the Official Language posts in the subordinate offices, including C.R.I., Kasauli, for creating promotional avenues for Hindi staff.

Use of Hindi in Subordinate Offices of the Ministry of Health

2675. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minsiter of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to slate:

(a) whether Government are aware that proper steps to encourage the use of Hindi have not been taken in its subordi nate offices;

(b) whether Government arc aware of the fact, that the Parliamantary Committee on official languages, during its visit to CRI, Kasauli, in November, 1991, recommended upgradation filling up of Hindi posts; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to initiate action to create promotional avenues for the staff at CRI, Kasauli; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the exact time frame within which this will be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHIL-MALAI): (a) No, Sir. Appropriate steps have been taken to encourage the use of the Hindi in the Subordinate Offices under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare as per instructions received from